

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

By Finney R.

A RESOLUTION to recognize Christopher Martin Burgess on becoming an Eagle Scout.

WHEREAS, at a time when this nation's youth face difficult challenges, the Boy Scouts of America is one of our finest assets, providing young people with an educational program that contributes significantly to their character development, citizenship training, and improved mental and physical fitness; and

WHEREAS, the highest rank a Boy Scout can attain is that of Eagle Scout, and Christopher Martin Burgess, after considerable effort and diligent preparation, has joined the prestigious Eagle Court of Honor; and

WHEREAS, the son of Martin E. Burgess and Lisa France Burgess, Christopher is a sophomore at Seymour High School in Seymour, Tennessee, where he has demonstrated considerable ability as a leader among his peers; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Burgess has earned an exemplary 4.0 grade point average, while serving as a valued member of several scholastic organizations, including Honors Choir (All East Tennessee and All State), Senior Beta Club, and the 4-H Club; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding young man has also served as a member of the Junior Beta Club, Eagle Ensemble, and the Freshman Chorus; additionally, Christopher Burgess is a two-time Science Fair Regional winner, a recipient of the Music in the Park Award, and has participated in the Junior Author's Conference, Sevier County Academic Field Day, and the Duke University Talent Identification Program; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Martin Burgess's notable record of achievement as a member of Boy Scout Troop 585 includes seventy-four Merit Badges and distinguished service as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, and Troop Guide; currently, Christopher serves as Chaplain's Aide, Den Chief, and Program President (Venturing); and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Burgess has been awarded the Religious Emblem Award, the Tiger Cub Award, the Member of Order of the Arrow, and Order of the Arrow Brotherhood status; he is also a four-time Pinewood Derby Pack Champion, three-time Pinewood Derby District Champion, and Pinewood Derby State Top 2 Champion; and

WHEREAS, moreover, Christopher Burgess has also received the Arrow of the Light Award, the Webelos Award, and the Kayaking Award, in addition to winning the Totin Chip, the Fire-N-Chit, and the Leave No Trace Award; and

WHEREAS, an active and engaged Scout, Christopher attended the National Boy Scout Jamboree and National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) in 2005, and he served as Troop Guide during the 2006 NYLT, where he completed the Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE) course, which included such teambuilding and outdoor skills as climbing and rappelling; he has also served as Sequoyah District Vice Chief – OA in 2003 and Sequoyah District Secretary in 2005; and

WHEREAS, inducted into scouting's Order of the Arrow on May 4, 2006, Christopher's Eagle project greatly contributed to the betterment of his community and reflected the true spirit of Volunteerism; his major community service project involved physical improvements to Valley Grove Baptist Church Missionary Home in Seymour, Tennessee. This ambitious project required the coordination of community volunteers who, in contributing over 265 total hours of work, cleared the underbrush and fence-line, removed two large chicken houses, and improved a footbridge by building handrails; and

WHEREAS, committed to his community, Christopher Burgess has volunteered his time and efforts to the Seymour Community Park clean-up, the Trundles Cemetery restoration, two area nursing homes, and numerous Eagle Projects; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burgess expresses his devout faith as an active member of Valley Grove Baptist Church in Seymour; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Burgess's noteworthy achievement is a tremendous source of pride for his father, Martin E. Burgess, his mother, Lisa France Burgess, his school, and his community; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we should pause to recognize Mr. Burgess as one of the most outstanding young people in our state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Christopher Martin Burgess on becoming an Eagle Scout and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.